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Letter from William McKinney to His Cousin Martha McKinney, February 5, 1862

William M. McKinney

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Camp Wickliffe Feb 5th 1862

My dear cousin Mattie,

Here I am writing
you the fourth letter, and have not yet received an answer to my first one. What does it mean? Not my writing, for that speaks for itself. "business," but yours; when have you not written, I can but think you have, and I have not received; something wrong somewhere. Since writing to you last, nothing very curious or strange has occurred. I am now in command of the company, the Captain having been ordered to Barracks to recover his health. While I was gone home, he concluded he would try for a leave of absence, feigning sickness, but he did not get it, however, in its stead, he received Orders from Gen Buell's Head Quarters to report himself in the Barracks for the sick, about twenty miles from here, among about 400 sick soldiers,

I believe that is your names, if it is not, please inform in next
where he is now, How long he will
have to remain there, I cannot tell,
he was no more sick when he went there
than I am at the present moment, and
I am in ~~superb~~ great health, but he
was ordered and had to go. So much
for playing sickness, a good joke on the
young man, and he will not hear the
lost of it soon, some of the company
were, to day, talking of presenting him
with a walking stick, he being so infirm.
I was out with the Company on picket
Monday and Tuesday, rained hard all
the time we were out, had no tents
or shelter of any kind, had a huge old
virginia time of it. Made me feel a
little rheumatic again, but guess it will
not be long again. Has been raining
all the time for a week, mud in
Camp, not get up to my neck, but
so deep as to be rather inconvenient.
Health of the Regiment still improving,
some dangerous cases yet, but the worst
have either got well or died, Two out
of the Regiment were buried to day.
I should like better to
I should like better to
I should like better to

I have heard nothing of our Government or her character & letters will not do it!!

We received Marching Orders this evening. Camp Wickliffe will be no more by Sunday noon. We march Sunday Morning, where for, I know not. Until you hear from me at some other Camp, direct as before, to (Camp Wickliffe, to follow the Regiment) and all will be safe. I am beginning to doubt whether my visit to my friends was not more injurious than beneficial. I have been back now two weeks, and not a letter received from anybody, except those I found already here on my return. Grief, they found out what kind of an individual the ofersaid Lieutenant was, and concluded all correspondence with such a fellow had better cease immediately. Now perhaps you are sick, unable to write, if you are, make your Father write, and let me know something about it. If I should receive a letter from you before we move, and have time to answer it, I will write again before we leave this Camp. Have not seen the Colonel yet!